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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3072  
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE IMMEDIATE 3953  
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN IMMEDIATE 0393  
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES IMMEDIATE 4177

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 ROME 000001

SIPDIS

EO 12958 DECL: 01/01/2020  
TAGS PREL, PGOV, PINR, IT

SUBJECT: VISITING WITH A RECUPERATING BERLUSCONI  
ROME 00000001 001.2 OF 003  
Classified By: Ambassador David H. Thorne. Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. C) Summary: The Ambassador visited recuperating Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi at his Lombardy estate for a private luncheon December 30.

The Recuperating Prime Minister  
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2. C) Following the Ambassador's call to Gianni Letta suggesting the Ambassador visit the Prime Minister during his recuperation, Letta, the t

3. C) Berlusconi was still bandaged and scarred from the assault in early December where a mentally unstable man hurled a die cast model of Mi

U.S.-Italy: A Prized Relationship  
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4. C) In luncheon discussions, Berlusconi unabashedly stated that he prized Italy's relationship with the U.S. and that his government stood r

Berlusconi on European Leaders  
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5. C) The Prime Minister and Letta also gave their run down of current European political leadership. Berlusconi assessed that Sarkozy's star

Iran: Appalled by violence, Will try to rope in ENI  
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6. C) On Iran, Berlusconi noted that he was appalled by the Iranian crackdown. He offered the capabilities of the Italian intelligence service

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already excellent bilateral cooperation on the issue. Letta also promised that he would talk to ENI CEO Scaroni about the energy giant's ongoin

Megaports - GOI to determine POC  
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7. C) In response to the U.S. request to move forward on Megaports, Letta told the Ambassador that the issue would be discussed at the Council

Italy's Courts - Problem Number One  
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8. C) Berlusconi forthrightly identified the magistratura - Italy's judiciary and courts -- as Italy's "biggest problem" and told the Ambassa

Smart Guys in the Opposition  
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9. C) Berlusconi and Letta displayed a great deal of respect for opposition leaders. Berlusconi praised the Democratic Party Leader, Pier Luigi

Worried about a flat 2010  
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10. C) Both Berlusconi and Letta expressed concern about the limited prospects for economic growth in 2010. Berlusconi thought that Italy had

New Media - Important for Liberty  
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11. C) In response to the Ambassador's questions to the Prime Minister about the role of the internet, Berlusconi shot back "it's important f

The Berlusconi Leadership Academy  
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12. C) The Prime Minister commenced the visit by personally

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conducting a guided tour of his most recent project, a private academy to train Italy's brightest young minds. Berlusconi led Letta and the Am

Comment  
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13. C) The Ambassador's intimate afternoon with Italy's two top decision makers was both a testament to the priority Berlusconi gives the U.S.